

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 01968 011946Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSF-04 SCI-06 SS-20 EB-11 FEA-02 TRSE-00

CIEP-02 STR-08 COME-00 AGR-20 RSC-01 DRC-01 /101 W

----- 041758

R 011740Z APR 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6659

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 1968

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EEC, US

SUBJECT: ENERGY: US-EC DISCUSSIONS ON ENERGY RESEARCH

REF: A) EC A-41; B) STATE 62398

1. AS REPORTED IN REF A, THE EC COMMISSION HAS BEEN PLANNING FOR SOME TIME TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) ON ENERGY RESEARCH. THE MISSION HAS NOW BEEN INFORMED THAT COMMISSIONER DAHRENDORF HAS PROPOSED, IN A LETTER TO DR. STEVER, NSF DIRECTOR, DATED MARCH 28, THAT THE MEETING BE HELD IN BRUSSEL ON MAY 20 AND 21. THE LETTER SUGGESTS THAT "ASSUMPTIONS, OPTIONS AND PRIORITIES" OF ENERGY RESEARCH COULD BE THE SUBJECTS OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS. THE US DELEGATION WAS INVITED TO COME EARLIER IN ORDER TO VISIT EC RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENTS ON MAY 16-17.

2. THE MISSION SEES NO DIFFICULTY IN THE FACT THAT THE SAME DATES HAVE NOW BEEN FIXED FOR THE SEMIANNUAL US-EC CONSULTATIONS, WHICH ARE TO BE CHAIRED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH AND COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES. HOWEVER, WASHINGTON AGENCIES SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE COINCIDENCE OF THE TWO MEETINGS: SINCE ENERGY COULD BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN THE US/EC CONSULTATIONS, THIS MIGHT AFFECT THE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMISSION-NSF MEETING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, ENERGY, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU01968
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740072-0319
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740478/aaaactrg.tel
Line Count: 51
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) EC A-41: B) STATE 62398
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 AUG 2002 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <06-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENERGY: US-EC DISCUSSIONS ON ENERGY RESEARCH
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, US, EEC, NSF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005